



## Climate change: How soon is now?

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### Abstract:

A headline in last week's New York Times ran like this: "Rubio denies humans have an effect on climate change." The article was referring to Marco Rubio, a potential Republican Presidential candidate and US Senator from Florida, who said that, "I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it." By "these scientists" Rubio was referring to the third National Climate Assessment, released on May 6, 2014, by the US Global Change Research Program--a product of the efforts of more than 300 experts to document the effects of human-induced climate change. Rising sea levels, heat waves, ice melt, and ocean acidification are just a few of the grim harbingers of a planet in flux. Capturing these indices and others, the assessment integrates a range of observations that give a stark warning of the trends over the next decades, but also bluntly points out that climate change is already here. The report emphasises two major points: changes in the climate rapidly continue to develop in scope and magnitude; and the changes in the past 50 years, above and beyond those due to natural variability, are directly attributable to human behaviour. Multiple strands of research in the report demonstrate how ecosystems and weather patterns are being affected, specifically in the USA, and how those changes translate into key messages for human health. Very simply, without a dramatic shift in our approach to climate change, human health is in peril.

**Source:** [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(14\)60813-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(14)60813-8)

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Public, Researcher

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

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## **Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

**Temperature:** Fluctuations

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

United States

## **Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

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## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

**Infectious Disease:** Vectorborne Disease

**Respiratory Effect:** Asthma

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

## **Resilience:**

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to

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shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

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**Timescale:** 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified